2/17/73

Dear Walter,

If the Romero book is successful there is an new sub-industry awaiting birth. I never kept track of the fakes like Romero, but I know of a number. In fact, I read part of one today. It has fine credentials, as his publisher claims for Romero. The difference is that in this case there appears to be neither mystery nor basis for doubt: the man was a chief of detectives. Major in intelligence, too. Lectured Scotland Yard. But the fakery is unprofessional.

There is a delightful twist on the Irving case: this guy seems to have Howard Hughes connection and financing.

I read one long chapter only, that on the setting of the deal. The parallels with Romero are not hard to find. Including the people who paid. I could have copied what I had, but it was too much for my finances. Instead I saved a few pages on the author. There is the same pattern, by the way, the built-in self-destruct. This one is even less credible than Romero, besides being bad writing. (It was ghosted by a pro.) There is a cheap and impossible gimmick in this one: the confessing assassin is/but is not named in the Warren Commission material. I have his picture. But 'tain't so! The detective claims to have coerced his confession. And for Algeria substitute Mexico and, as Switzerland and Italy figure with Romero, substitute Guatemala and Haiti.

Now, on CBS, where I expect more: Joel Blocher seems to have been in charge of their Romero checking, with the part-time help of 5-4 others (one may be named Gloria). You understand this is not first-hand with me. The woman who contrived the Watergate angle is said to be Daria Robineau, New York, a translator. She spoke to some McGovern people, I'm told, and they put her in touch with CBS, which flew her to France. Two CBS people went along. They met with Gilles, who said he'd get in touch with Romero about the pictures she had of these Watergate people. Romero, Gilles said, was in South America. But he wasn't. He made "identification" the next day, in Paris. He identified as the two who were with "Mike" McCord and Fiorini. Because the time of that first Algiers meeting seemed to preclude McCord, Romero pondered more and decided no, it wasn't McCord, it was Barker. Fiorini(Sturgis) and Barker were Mike's companions.

Wonder if it now finds its way into the book? Be great promotional material. Maybe a little libellous, but it sure will have zing!

The nuts interested in the assassinations have quote a network. I'm not part of it, but once in a while I get things from it. That is the antecedents of this Anglo Romero and it is of more than I expect, nothing sensational, but perhaps amusing, as in a way I find all of this.

Best,

Hugh McDonald, former Los Angeles county Chief of Detectives, now head of World Associates, of which I know nothing.